## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method to indirectly control at least one media peripheral via a communication network, the method comprising:

identifying by a first system, at a first location, the at least one media peripheral communicatively coupled to a second system, at a second location;

establishing a communication link between the first system and the at least one media peripheral;

selecting, at the first location, an operation of the at least one media peripheral;

requesting performance of the selected operation on the at least one media peripheral;

determining authorization of the performance of the selected operation;

performing the selected operation on the at least one media peripheral if the authorization is successful; and

not performing the selected operation on the at least one media peripheral if the authorization is not successful.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises one of a digital camera, a personal computer, a digital camcorder, a MP3 player, a mobile multi-media gateway, a home juke-box, and a personal digital assistant.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises a processor running media capture software and/or media player software.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the communication link is established via at least one of a wired connection and a wireless connection.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the operation comprises one of:

powering said media peripheral on or off;

scanning said media peripheral in angle about at least one axis of rotation;

transferring stored media from the media peripheral to the first system;

transferring stored media from the first system to the media peripheral;

transferring software from the first system to the media peripheral;

transferring status information from the media peripheral to the first system;

initiating a test of the media peripheral;

initiating a trick mode of the media peripheral;

determining whether the media peripheral is within communication range of the second system;

putting the media peripheral into a sleep state; and

changing a parameter of the media peripheral.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first system and the second system comprises a set-top-box based media processing system.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first system and the second system comprises a personal computer based media processing system.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first system and the second system comprises an integrated element of a television based media processing system.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the first system comprises a server of a media provider.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein the first system comprises a server of a service provider.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the first system comprises a server of a peripheral manufacturer.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the establishing the communication link is initiated by the first system.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the establishing the communication link is initiated via a telephone call.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the establishing the communication link is initiated via a web site.

15. A method to indirectly monitor at least one media peripheral via a communication network, the method comprising:

identifying by a first system at a first location the at least one media peripheral communicatively coupled to a second system at a second location;

establishing a communication link between the first system and the at least one media peripheral;

determining authorization for monitoring the at least one media peripheral;

monitoring at least one status parameter of the at least one media peripheral, via the communication link, if the authorization is successful;

responding to a state of the at least one status parameter, if the authorization is successful; and

not responding to a state of the at least one status parameter, if the authorization is not successful.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the media peripheral comprises one of a digital camera, a PC, a digital camcorder, a MP3 player, a mobile multi-media gateway, a home juke-box, and a PDA.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein the media peripheral comprises a processor running media capture software and/or media player software.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein the communication link is established via at least one of a wired connection and a wireless connection.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein the at least one status parameter comprises a battery level, an "on/off" indication, an amount of storage used, an amount of storage remaining, a "within range" indication, a software version, a model number, a serial number, and a certificate ID.

20. The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of the first system and the second system comprises a set-top-box based media processing system.

21. The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of the first system and the second system comprises a personal computer based media processing system.

22. The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of the first system and the second system comprises an integrated element of a television based media processing system.

23. The method of claim 15 wherein the first system comprises a server of a media provider.

24. The method of claim 15 wherein the first system comprises a server of a service provider.

25. The method of claim 15 wherein the first system comprises a server of a peripheral manufacturer.

26. The method of claim 15 wherein establishing the communication link is initiated by the first system.

27. The method of claim 15 wherein establishing the communication link is initiated via a telephone call.

28. The method of claim 15 wherein establishing said communication link is initiated via a web site.

29. The method of claim 15 wherein the responding comprises at least one of:

powering the media peripheral on or off;

initiating a test of the media peripheral;

transferring stored media from the media peripheral to the first system;

putting the media peripheral into a sleep state;

transferring software from the first system to the media peripheral; and

changing a parameter of the media peripheral.

30. A method to download digital information to a media peripheral device via a communication network, the method comprising:

identifying by a first system at a first location the at least one media peripheral communicatively coupled to a second system at a second location;

establishing a communication link between the first system and the at least one media peripheral;

determining authorization for downloading digital information to the at least one media peripheral;

pushing digital information from the first system to the media peripheral via the communication link, if the authorization is successful;

not pushing digital information from the first system to the media peripheral, if the authorization is not successful;

billing an account associated with the media peripheral, if the pushing is successful; and

not billing an account associated with the media peripheral, if the pushing is not successful.

31. The method of claim 30 further comprising requesting the digital information from the first system over the communication link.

32. The method of claim 30 further comprising requesting the digital information from the first system via a telephone call.

33. The method of claim 30 further comprising requesting the digital information from the first system via a web site.

34. The method of claim 30 wherein the digital information comprises at least one of digital images, digital audio, digital video, software, digital text, and digital data.

35. A method to test a media peripheral device via a communication network, the method comprising:

identifying by a first system, at a first location, the at least one media peripheral communicatively coupled to a second system, at a second location;

establishing a communication link between the first system and the at least one media peripheral;

determining authorization for testing the at least one media peripheral;

performing a diagnostic test of the media peripheral, from the first system via the communication link, if the authorization is successful;

not performing a diagnostic test of the media peripheral, if the authorization is not successful;

identifying a problem of the media peripheral, from the first system via the communication link, if the diagnostic test is performed; and

not identifying a problem of the media peripheral, if the diagnostic test is not performed.